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It makes no difference whether it be called bubonic plague or be designated by some other term more pleasing. It is contagious and deadly just the same, several members of the same family often dying from it within a few hours.

Since the plague is as yet confined to parts of the city some 4 miles distant from the section in which shipping is generally carried on, there does not appear to be any present need of interfering with exports to the United States. Moreover, the chief export from Foochow to the United States is tea, and this ought to be especially free from contamination, it being brought from the upland country districts in boats traversing the Min River, and conveyed directly to foreign honges or warehouses, where it is stored to await shipment.

If either the plague or the cholera, or both, become general, the mortality will be much greater than what it was last year, owing to the fearful sanitary conditions brought about by the rains, which have prevailed here so long. It is raining now; it has been raining nearly all the while since the 1st of January.

You will be kept duly informed of the progress made by the plague.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

J. COURTNEY HIXSON,
United States Consul.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

CUBA.

Smallpox in Cienfuegos.

CIENTFUEGOS, *May 30, 1896.*

SIR: I sent to-day the following cablegram: "State Department, Washington. Smallpox. McGarr."

Smallpox has existed here for several weeks, confined to the negro and very poor white population, but the latest mortality report shows a great increase in the number of deaths, and indicates that the disease has assumed the proportions of an epidemic. There were 42 deaths from smallpox in the last weekly report, an increase over the previous week of 24.

The population of the city by the census of 1895 was 24,030.

Notwithstanding the mortality from the disease, but few deaths have occurred outside of the classes above mentioned, which have an aversion to vaccination.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

OWEN MCGARR, *Consul.*

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

FRANCE.

Contradiction of report of cholera in Havre—Precautionary measures with regard to emigrants from Egypt.

HAVRE, FRANCE, *May 19, 1896.*

SIR: I herewith inclose for the information of the Department an extract from the "Independance Havraise" of this date.

The rumor cabled from New York that cholera has appeared in this city is without any foundation in truth. Not a single case of cholera or cholerine has existed here since 1893, and the health of the city at this time is exceptionally good.